

deal with, this discussion is very timely. For this reason, I am heartened that this resolution encourages our Veterans Affairs Department to establish innovative public-private partnerships in the treatment of PTSD. This is a remarkable turning point in our handling of this condition.

I again thank the gentleman from New York for introducing this resolution and I urge all the members of this body to stand in support with me to ensure our service members are receiving the care they so rightfully deserve.

KENDRICK MEEK

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, I rise today to honor and celebrate the extraordinary career of Congressman KENDRICK MEEK. A man who took up the torch from his mother—our former esteemed colleague, Congresswoman Carrie Meek—and has carried it further than any of us would have ever imagined. He has truly been a trailblazer here in Washington, DC.

A native of Florida, Congressman MEEK received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice in 1989 from Florida A&M University, where he co-founded the school's Young Democrats chapter. After rising to become the first African-American chief of police in Florida, Congressman MEEK was elected to the Florida House of Representatives from 1995 to 1998 and to the Florida Senate from 1999 to 2002. While in the Florida Senate, Congressman MEEK chaired Florida's Coalition to Reduce Class Size and helped gain a major victory for students throughout the state, with 2.5 million Florida citizens voting to approve the initiative.

During the four terms that Congressman MEEK has served Florida's 17th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, he has lit a spark among all of us and brought a renewed spirit to the mission of not only the Congressional Black Caucus, but to all of Congress. He has sponsored legislation creating a Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Task Force, expanded trade preferences to Haiti's textile industry, provided tax relief to individuals taken advantage of by Ponzi schemes, and expanded the number of Medicare-supported physician residency training positions in states with a shortage of residents. Congressman MEEK has also been recognized nationally for his commitment to youth issues and for his use of social media as a way of strengthening collaborative communication with his constituents and enhancing civic engagement.

Congressman MEEK has served admirably on the House Committee on Ways and Means and as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. On the international level, he has served on the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, an inter-parliamentary organization of legislators representing NATO members and associate countries. He served as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and led it to its prominent national stature.

Congressman MEEK is a dedicated public servant, who has always fought fiercely for social and economic justice. He has truly in-

spired a renewed spirit throughout the Congress. On behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, I honor Congressman MEEK for his outstanding commitment to his district and his country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 641, to suspend the rules and pass S. 3860, a bill to require reports on the management of Arlington National Cemetery, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 639 on Motion to adjourn, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 640 on S. 841, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Act, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 641 on S. 3860, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, A bill to require reports on the management of Arlington National Cemetery, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 642 on S. 3447, On Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment with an Amendment, Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 643 on H. Res. 1766, On Agreeing to the Amendment, Providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 644 on H. Res. 1766, On Agreeing to the Resolution, as Amended, Providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 645 on S. 987, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and

Pass, To protect girls in developing countries through the prevention of child marriage, and for other purposes, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

H. RES. 1540: SUPPORTING THE GOAL OF ERADICATING ILLICIT MARIJUANA CULTIVATION ON FEDERAL LANDS AND CALLING ON THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY TO DEVELOP A COORDINATED STRATEGY TO PERMANENTLY DISMANTLE MEXICAN DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER CRIMINAL GROUPS OPERATING ON FEDERAL LANDS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 1540, a resolution supporting the goal of eradicating illicit marijuana cultivation on Federal lands and calling on the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to develop a coordinated strategy to dismantle Mexican drug trafficking organizations and other criminal groups operating on Federal lands. H. Res. 1540 is an unnecessary statement that continues the Bush administration's failed approach to United States drug policy by overemphasizing military and law enforcement as the primary instruments of U.S. drug policy and its focus on marijuana to the exclusion of other more harmful drugs. If the approach recommended in this resolution were enacted, it would require the diversion of valuable resources from an effective policy already in place.

There is no doubt that the problem identified in the resolution, illicit marijuana cultivation on Federal lands, is real and harmful. Mexican drug trafficking organizations' ("DTOs") use of national forests and parks for illicit marijuana cultivation imperils visitors and damages pristine national resources. However, contrary to the implication of the resolution, ONDCP already has a coordinated strategy to address this problem. ONDCP's 2010 National Drug Control Strategy outlines how it has worked on a coordinated effort to combat the DTOs' illegal cultivation via its High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program in conjunction with the Department of Interior, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Guard, the Department of Justice's Drug Enforcement Agency, the Department of Justice's National Drug Intelligence Center, and state and local law enforcement agencies. In some of these initiatives, such as the Domestic Marijuana Eradication and Investigation Project, ONDCP has provided funding through HIDTA for these efforts. ONDCP has also coordinated a strategy to combat the DTO cultivation of marijuana on Native American reservations.

Moreover, while disrupting organized criminal groups is critical to successfully reducing the violent drug trade in Mexico, there are far more cost-effective ways to undermine the efforts of DTOs than combing the vast public territories in the U.S. for marijuana. U.S. counternarcotics policy must be both evidence-